

Novel 11.

Concerning the privileges of the archbishop
of the first Justinian.

(De privilegiis archiepiscopi primae Justinianae.)

The same emperor (Justinian) to Catellianus,
blessed archbishop of the first Justinian.

Wishing to increase the honor of our native country,
where God first permitted us to see the world, we want to enlarge
it also as far as possible in connection with sacerdotal power.
So the holy bishop, for the time being, of our first Justinian,
shall not only be a metropolitan, but also an archbishop, and
certain provinces shall be under his jurisdiction, namely, inland
Dacia (mediterranea Dacia), Dacia on the river bank (Dacia ripensis),
the first Mysia, Dardania, Prevalitana, the second Macedonia and
part of the second Pannonia in the territory of Baca. 1. For
since in ancient times there was a prefecture of Sirmium, the
head of Illyria in civil and episcopal matters, but it was sub-
sequently, in the times of Attila, devastated, and Apraemius, the
praetorian prefect of the Sirmian state fled to Thessalonica, and then
in addition to holding the prefecture, secured the bishop's honor,
the bishop of Thessalonica obtained a high standing, not through
his authority as bishop, but under the shadow of the prefecture.
2. And since at the present time our state has been increased
through the grace of God, so that both banks of the Danube wash
our cities, and Viminacium, Recidiva and Litterata, situated
across the Danube, are again subject to our sway, we have thought
it necessary to transfer the praefecture, formerly constituted
in Pannonia, to our nearby fortunate fatherland, since the second
Pannonia is not far distant from inland Dacia, but the second

Macedonia is far away from the second Pannonia. 3. And since it is not beneficial to our state that men always engaged in labors of war should be compelled to go to the first Macedonia over such long distance and with so much difficulty, it therefore appeared necessary to us to establish the prefecture further north, so that the provinces near it might receive quicker assistance. 4. Your Beatitude, therefore, and all (future) holy bishops of the aforesaid first Justinian shall have the prerogative of archbishop, with power to govern the aforesaid provinces and regulate them (in ecclesiastical affairs), and have therein the highest honor, dignity, eminence and position in the priesthood, so that (priests) shall be appointed by you and shall have you as their only archbishop, having nothing further in common with the bishop of Thessalonica, and you yourself and all (future) bishops of the first Justinian shall be their judges and arbitrators; and whatever dispute arises among them, you yourself shall settle it and put an end to it and regulate them. Recourse shall not be had to any one else, and all the foresaid provinces shall acknowledge their archbishop and his appointment. He shall have power either personally or by his authority, to dismiss clergymen, and shall have all sacerdotal government and right of appointment. And we want a bishop to be appointed by Your Holiness in Aqua, which is in the province of Dacia on the river bank, who shall not hereafter be under the bishop of Meridianum. The bishop there shall remain in Meridianum, having nothing to do with Aqua. The bishop at Aqua shall have jurisdiction over the aforesaid city and all its fortresses and territory and churches, so that he may expel the crime of the Bonociaci from that city and territory and bring (the people) to the orthodox faith.

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In order that Your Beatitude may know our wish, we have, therefore, transmitted this law to your venerable seat, so that the church of our fatherland may perpetually enjoy this beneficial grant, to the glory of God, and in eternal memory of our majesty. When, moreover, the occupant of your seat, happens to pass from the light of day, the new archbishop shall be appointed by the venerable council of metropolitan bishops (stationed there), in the manner in which it becomes an archbishop, honored by all, to be promoted in churches, the bishop of Thessalonica also having nothing to do with this.

Your Beatitude must not delay to put these provisions of Our Eternity in force and effect in every respect.

Given at Constantinople, April 14, 535 A.D.

Note.

The places mentioned in the instant law were all in what are at present called the Balkans, and adjacent to the river Danube, and north of Macedonia. Justinian was born in or near Scupi, which he renamed Prima (first) Justiniana, and which he attempted to build up and glorify. Other cities were named after Justinian. We may well give the brief statement of Bury, Hist. Later Roman Empire 2, 309:

"Scupi, near the village where he (Justinian) was born, began a new era in its history under the name of Justiniana Prima, though the old name refused to be displaced, and the town is now Usküb. It was raised to high dignity as the ecclesiastical metropolis of Illyricum; the number of its churches, its municipal offices, the size of its porticoes, the beauty of its market places

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impressed the visitor. Ulpiana, too, was embellished, and became Justiniana Secunda, and near it the emperor founded a new town called Justinopolis in honor of his uncle."